

# NIG

Dire Tisiphone there keeps the ward,  
Girt in her sanguine gown by night and day,  
Observant of the souls that pass the downward way. *Dryd.*  
2. It is much used in composition.  
To-NIGHT. *adverbially.* In this night; at this night.  
There came men in hither to-night of the children of Is-  
rael, to search out the country. *Jos. ii. 2.*  
NIGHTERAWLER. *n. f.* [night and brawler.] One who raises  
disturbances in the night.  
You unlace your reputation,  
And spend your credit for the name  
Of a night-brawler. *Shaksp. Othello.*  
NIGHTCAP. *n. f.* [night and cap.] A cap worn in bed, or  
in undress.  
The rabblement houted, and clapt their chopt hands,  
And threw up their sweaty night-caps. *Shaksp. Jul. Caesar.*  
Great mountains have a perception of the disposition of  
the air to tempests sooner than the vallies below; and there-  
fore they say in Wales, when certain hills have their night-  
caps on, they mean mischief. *Bacon's Nat. History.*  
How did the humbled swain detect  
His prickly beard, and hairy breast!  
His night-cap border'd round with lace,  
Could give no softness to his face. *Swift's Poems.*  
NIGHTCROW. *n. f.* [night and crow.] A bird that cries in  
the night.  
The owl shriek'd at thy birth, an evil sign;  
The night-crow cry'd, a boding luckless time. *Shaksp.*  
NIGHTDEW. *n. f.* [night and dew.] Dew that wets the ground  
in the night.  
All things are hush'd, as nature's self lay dead,  
The mountains seem to nod their drowsy head;  
The little birds in dreams their songs repeat,  
And sleeping flowers beneath the night-dew sweat;  
E'en lust and envy sleep. *Dryden's Inl. Emperor.*  
NIGHTDOG. *n. f.* [night and dog.] A dog that hunts in the  
night. Used by deer-stealers.  
When night-dogs run, all sorts of deer are chased. *Sha.*  
NIGHTDRESS. *n. f.* [night and dress.] The dress worn at  
night.  
The fair ones feel such maladies as these,  
When each new night-dress gives a new disease. *Pope.*  
NIGHTED. *adj.* [from night.] Darkened; clouded; black.  
It was great ignorance, Gloster's eyes being out,  
To let him live: Edmund, I think, is gone;  
In pity of his misery to dispatch  
His nighted life. *Shaksp. King Lear.*  
Good Hamlet, cast thy nighted colour off;  
And let thine eye look like a friend on Denmark. *Sha.*  
NIGHTFARING. *n. f.* [night and fare.] Travelling in the  
night.  
Will-a-Wisp misleads night-faring clowns,  
O'er hills, and sinking bogs, and pathless downs. *Gay.*  
NIGHTFIRE. *n. f.* [night and fire.] Ignis futuus; Will-a-  
Wisp.  
Foolish night-fires, womens and childrens wishes,  
Chafes in arras, gilded emptiness;  
These are the pleasures here. *Herbert.*  
NIGHTFLY. *n. f.* [night and fly.] Moth that flies in the  
night.  
Why rather, sleep, liest thou in smoaky cribs,  
And hush't with buzzing night-flies to thy slumber;  
Than in the perfume'd chambers of the great,  
And hush'd with sounds of sweetest melody? *Shaksp. Lear.*  
NIGHTFOUNDER. *n. f.* [from night and founder.] Lost  
or distressed in the night.  
Either some one like us night-founder here,  
Or else some neighbour woodman, or at worst,  
Some roving robber calling to his fellows. *Milton.*  
NIGHTGOWN. *n. f.* [night and gown.] A loose gown used  
for an undress.  
Since his majesty went into the field,  
I have seen her rise from her bed, throw  
Her night-gown upon her. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*  
They have put me in a full night-gown, and a gaudy fool's  
cap. *Addison's Guardian, N<sup>o</sup>. 113.*  
No meagre muse-rid mope, adult and thin,  
In a dun night-gown of his own loose skin. *Pope's Dunciad.*  
NIGHTHAG. *n. f.* [night and hag.] Witch supposed to wan-  
der in the night.  
Nor uglier follows the night-hag, when called  
In secret, riding through the air the comes  
Lur'd with the smell of infant-blood, to dance  
With Lapland witches. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. ii.*  
NIGHTINGALE. *n. f.* [from night and gale, Saxon, to sing;  
galm, Teutonic, is a found or echo.]  
1. A small bird that sings in the night with remarkable me-  
lody; Philomel.  
I think,  
The nightingale, if she should sing by day,

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When every goose is cackling, would be thought  
No better a musician than the wren. *Shaksp. Lear.*  
Although the wren, the thrush, and tongue, be the in-  
struments of voice, and by their agitations concur in those de-  
lightful modulations, yet cannot we assign the cause unto  
any particular formation; and I perceive the nightingale hath  
some disadvantage in the tongue. *Brown's P. Err.*  
Thus the wife nightingale that leaves her home,  
Pursuing constantly the cheerful spring,  
To foreign groves does her old music bring. *Waller.*  
2. A word of endearment.  
My nightingale!  
We'll beat them to their beds. *Shak. Ant. and Cleopatra.*  
NIGHTLY. *adv.* [from night.]  
1. By night.  
Thee, Sion! and the flow'ry brooks beneath,  
That wash thy hallow'd feet, and warbling flow,  
Nightly I visit. *Milton's Paradise Lost, b. iii.*  
Soon as the evening shades prevail,  
The moon takes up the wondrous tale,  
And nightly to the listening earth  
Repeats the story of her birth. *Addison's Spectator.*  
2. Every night.  
Let all things suffer,  
We will eat our meal in fear, and sleep  
In the affliction of those terrible dreams  
That shake us nightly. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*  
NIGHTLY. *adj.* [from night.] Done by night; acting by  
night; happening by night.  
May the stars and shining moon attend  
Your nightly sports, as you vouchsafe to tell  
What nymphs they were who mortal forms excel. *Dryd.*  
Soon as the rocks shook off the nightly dews,  
Two swains, whom love kept wakeful and the muse,  
Pour'd o'er the whitening vale their fleecy care. *Pope.*  
NIGHTMAN. *n. f.* [night and man.] One who carries away  
ordure in the night.  
NIGHTMARE. *n. f.* [night, and according to *Temple's mora*, a  
spirit that, in the heathen myth story, was related to torment  
or suffocate sleepers.] A morbid oppression in the night,  
resembling the pressure of weight upon the breast.  
Saint Withold fasted thrice the would,  
He met the nightmare, and her name he told;  
Bid her alight, and her troth plight. *Shaksp. K. Lear.*  
The forerunners of an apoplexy are, dulness, drowsiness,  
vertiges, tremblings, oppressions in sleep, and night-mare.  
*Arbutnot on Humors.*  
NIGHTPIECE. *n. f.* [night and piece.] A picture coloured  
as to be supposed seen by candle light; not by the light of the  
day.  
He hung a great part of the wall with night-pieces, that  
seemed to show themselves by the candles which were lighted  
up; and were so inflamed by the sun-shine which fell upon  
them, that I could scarce forbear crying out fire. *Addison.*  
NIGHTRAIL. *n. f.* [night and reil, Saxon, a gown or robe.]  
A loose cover thrown over the dress at night.  
An antiquary will scorn to mention a pinner or night-rail;  
but will talk as gravely as a father of the church on the  
vitta and peplus. *Addison on ancient Medals.*  
NIGHTRAVEN. *n. f.* [night and raven.] A bird supposed of  
ill omen, that cries loud in the night.  
The ill-fac'd owl, death's dreadful messenger,  
The hoarse night-raven, trump of doleful drear. *Spenser.*  
I pray his bad voice bode no mischief;  
I had as lief have heard the night-raven,  
Come what plague would have come after it. *Shaksp.*  
NIGHTROBBER. *n. f.* [night and robber.] One who steals  
in the dark.  
Highways should be fenced on both sides, whereby thieves  
and night-robbers might be more easily pursued and encoun-  
tered. *Spenser's Ireland.*  
NIGHTRULE. *n. f.* [night and rule.] A tumult in the night.  
How now, mad sprite,  
What night-rule now about this haunted grove? *Shaksp.*  
NIGHTSHADE. *n. f.* [night and shade, Saxon.]  
1. A plant of two kinds, common and deadly night-shade.  
The flower consists of one leaf, which is divided into five  
parts, and expands in form of a star: from the flower-cup  
rises the pointal, which afterward becomes a round, oval,  
soft, succulent fruit, containing many flat seeds in each. The  
species are nine. This the physicians have directed to be  
used in medicine, under the title of *solanum tortuosum*. *Miller.*  
2. Deadly.  
Deadly night-shade (belladonna) a plant. The flower is  
bell-shaped, of one leaf, divided into five acute segments  
at the top, and succeeded by a globular soft fruit, divided  
into two cells which contain the seeds. It is a very strong  
poison. *Miller.*  
NIGHTSHINING. *n. f.* [night and shine.] Showing brightness  
in the night. *Nat.*

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None of these nosiluca, or night-flaming bodies, have been  
observed in any of the ancient sepulchres. *Wilkin's Dædalus.*  
NIGHTSHRIEK. *n. f.* [night and shriek.] A cry in the night.  
I have almost forgot the taste of fears:  
The time has been, my senses would have cool'd  
To hear a night-shriek; and my fell of hair  
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir,  
As life were in't. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*  
NIGHTTRIPPING. *n. f.* [night and trip.] Going lightly in  
the night.  
Could it be prov'd,  
That some night-tripping fairy had exchang'd  
In cradle cloths, our children where they lay,  
Then would I have his Harry, and he mine. *Shaksp.*  
NIGHTWALK. *n. f.* [night and walk.] Walk in the night.  
If in his night-walk he met with irregular scholars, he took  
their names, and a promise to appear, unfest for, next morn-  
ing. *Warton's Life of Sanderson.*  
NIGHTWALKER. *n. f.* [night and walk.] One who roves in  
the night upon ill designs.  
Men that hunt so, be either privy thieves, or night-walkers.  
*Ascham's Schoolmaster.*  
NIGHTWARBLING. [night and warble.] Singing in the night.  
Now is the pleasant time,  
The cool, the silent, save where silence yields  
To the night-warbling bird. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. v.*  
NIGHTWARD. *adj.* [night and ward.] Approaching towards  
night.  
Their night-ward studies, wherewith they close the day's  
work. *Milton on Education.*  
NIGHTWATCH. *n. f.* [night and watch.] A period of the  
night as distinguished by change of the watch.  
I remember thee upon my bed, and meditate on thee in  
the night-watches. *Psalms lxxiii. 6.*  
NIGHTSCENT. *adj.* [night and scent, Latin.] Growing black; ap-  
proaching to blackness.  
NIGHTSIGN. *n. f.* [night and sign.] The act of making  
black.  
NIGHTLIT. *n. f.* [night and lit, Fr. *nocturnum*, Latin.] Nothingness;  
the state of being nothing.  
Not being is considered as excluding all substance, and  
then all modes are also necessarily excluded; and this we call  
pure night, or mere nothing. *Watts's Logic.*  
To NILL. *v. a.* [from *ne will*, nillan, Saxon.] Not to will;  
to refuse; to reject.  
Certes, said he, I will thine offer'd grace,  
Ne to be made so happy do intend,  
Another bliss before mine eyes I place,  
Another happiness, another end. *Spenser's Fairy Q.*  
In all affections the concurrent still;  
If now, with man and wife to will and nill  
The self-same things, a note of concord be,  
I know no couple better can agree. *Ben. Johnson.*  
NILL. *v. a.* The shining sparks of brass in trying and melting  
the ore.  
To NIM. *v. a.* [nimen, Dutch, to take.] To take. In cant,  
to steal.  
They'll question Mars, and by his look  
Detect who 'twas that nim'd a cloak. *Hudibras, p. i.*  
They could not keep themselves honest of their fingers,  
but would be nimming something or other for the love of  
thieving. *LeStrange, Fable 241.*  
NIMBLE. *adj.* [from nim, or niman, Saxon, tractable.] Quick;  
active; ready; speedily; lively; expeditious.  
They being nimble-jointed than the rest,  
And more indolent, gathered more store. *Spenser.*  
You nimble lightnings, dart your blinding flames  
Into her scornful eyes. *Shaksp. K. Lear.*  
You have dancing shoes  
With nimble soles. *Shaksp. Romeo and Juliet.*  
His off'ring soon propitious fire from heaven,  
Consum'd with nimble glance and grateful steam;  
The others not, for his was not sincere. *Milt. P. Lost.*  
Thro' the mid seas the nimble pinnace sails,  
Aloof from Crete before the northern gales. *Pope.*  
NIMBLENESS. *n. f.* [from nimble.] Quickness; activity; speed;  
agility; readiness; dexterity; celerity; expedition; swift-  
ness.  
The hounds were straight uncoupled, and ere long the  
stag thought it better to trust to the nimbleness of his feet,  
than to the slender fortification of his lodging. *Sidney.*  
Himself shewing at one instant both steadiness and nimble-  
ness. *Sidney, b. ii.*  
All things are therefore partakers of God; they are his  
offspring, his influence is in them, and the personal wisdom  
of God is for that very cause said to excel in nimbleness or  
agility, to pierce into all intellectual, pure and subtle spirits,  
to go through all, and to reach unto every thing which is.  
*Hooker, b. v. f. 5.*  
We, lying still,  
Are full of rest, defence and nimbleness. *Shaksp.*  
Ovid ranged over all Parnassus with great nimbleness and

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agility; but as he did not much care for the toil requisite to  
climb the upper part of the hill, he was generally roving  
about the bottom. *Addison's Guardian, N<sup>o</sup>. 115.*  
NIMBLEWITTED. *adj.* [nimble and wit.] Quick; eager to  
speak.  
Sir Nicholas Bacon, when a certain nimble-witted coun-  
sellor at the bar, who was forward to speak, did interrupt  
him often, said unto him, There is a great difference be-  
twixt you and me; a pain to me to speak, and a pain to  
you to hold your peace. *Bacon, Apepbth. 124.*  
NIMBLY. *adv.* [from nimble.] Quickly; speedily; actively.  
He capers nimble in a lady's chamber,  
To the lascivious playing of a lute. *Sha. Rich. III.*  
The air  
Nimble and sweetly recommends itself. *Shaksp.*  
Most legs can nimble run, tho' some be lame. *Davies.*  
The liquor we poured from the crystals, and set it in a  
digesting furnace to evaporate more nimble. *Boyle.*  
NIMBLENESS. *n. f.* Nimbleness. *Spenser.*  
NIMIETY. *n. f.* [nimietas, school Latin.] The state of being  
too much.  
NIMMER. *n. f.* [from nim.] A thief; a pilferer.  
NINCOMPPOOP. *n. f.* [A corruption of the Latin *non compos*.]  
A fool; a trifle.  
An old ninnyhammer, a dotard, a nincompoop, is the best  
language she can afford me. *Addison.*  
NINE. *n. f.* [ninus, Gothic; nigon, Saxon.] One more than  
eight; one less than ten.  
The weyward sisters,  
Thus do go about, about,  
Thrice to thine and thrice to mine,  
And thrice again, to make up nine. *Shaksp. Macbeth.*  
A thousand scruples may startle at first, and yet in conclu-  
sion prove but a nine-days wonder. *L'Estrange.*  
The faults are nine in ten owing to affectation, and not to  
the want of understanding. *Swift's Miscell.*  
NINEFOLD. *n. f.* [nine and fold.] Nine times; any thing nine  
times repeated.  
This huge convex of fire,  
Outrageous to devour, immures us round ninefold. *Milt.*  
NINEPENNY. *n. f.* [nine and penny.] A silver coin valued at  
nine-pence.  
Three silver pennies, and a nine-penny bent. *Gay's Past.*  
NINEPINS. *n. f.* [nine and pin.] A play where nine pieces of  
wood are set up on the ground to be thrown down by a ball.  
A painter made blossoms upon the trees in December,  
and school-boys playing at nine-pins upon the ice in July.  
*Peacocks on Drawing.*  
For as when merchants break, o'erthrown  
Like nine-pins, they strike others down. *Had. p. ii.*  
NINESCORE. *adj.* [nine and score.] Nine times twenty.  
Eugenius has two hundred pounds a year; but never va-  
lues himself above nine-score, as not thinking he has a right  
to the tenth part, which he always appropriates to charitable  
uses. *Addison's Spectator, N<sup>o</sup>. 177.*  
NINETEEN. *adj.* [nigonzene, Saxon.] Nine and ten; one  
less than twenty.  
Nineteen in twenty of perplexing words might be changed  
into easy ones, such as occur to ordinary men. *Swift.*  
NINETEENTH. *adj.* [nigonzecotha, Saxon.] The ordinal of  
nineteen; the ninth after the tenth.  
In the nineteenth year of king Nebuchadnezzar king of  
Babylon, came Nebuzaradan. *2 Kings xxv. 8.*  
NINETY. *adj.* [nuntigonty, Saxon.] Nine times ten.  
Enos lived ninety years and begat Cainan. *Gen. v. 9.*  
NINTH. *adj.* [negotha, Saxon.] That which precedes the  
tenth; the first after the eighth; the ordinal of nine.  
Upon a strict observation of many, I have not found any  
that see the ninth day. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
NINTIETH. *adj.* [nuntigontecotha, Saxon.] The ordinal  
of ninety; the tenth nine times told.  
NINNY. *n. f.* [ninnz, a child, Spanish.] A fool; a simpleton.  
What a pied ninny's this?  
The dean was so shabby, and look'd like a ninny,  
That the captain suppos'd he was curate. *Swift.*  
NINNYHAMMER. *n. f.* [from ninny.] A simpleton.  
Another vents her passion in scurrilous terms; an old nin-  
ny-hammer, a dotard, a nincompoop, is the best language she  
can afford me. *Addison's Guardian, N<sup>o</sup>. 109.*  
Have you no more manners than to rail at Hocus, that  
has saved that clod-pated, numskull'd, ninny-hammer of yours  
from ruin, and all his family. *Arbutnot on John Bull.*  
To NIP. *v. a.* [nippen, Dutch.]  
1. To pinch off with the nails; to bite with the teeth.  
In oranges and lemons, the nipping of their rind giveth  
out their smell more. *Bacon's Nat. Hist. N<sup>o</sup>. 388.*  
2. To cut off by any slight means.  
The small shoots that extract the sap of the most leading  
branches, must be nipt off. *Mortimer's Husb.*  
3. To blast; to destroy before full growth.  
This is the state of man; to-day he puts forth

The